

CLAIMS

1. A defibrillator device comprising a casing containing electrical circuitry for generating in use a defibrillation voltage for application to a patient, a control system for controlling operation of said defibrillator device, and a detector means which is associated with at least one region of said casing and which is responsive to at least one of touching by, handling by, or proximity of, an operator, said control system being responsive in use to said detector means to change the operational status of said defibrillator device from a first state to a second state on detection of an operator.
- 10 2. A defibrillator device according to Claim 1, wherein the casing includes a handle region and said detector means is associated with said handle or an adjacent region on said casing.
- 15 3. A defibrillator device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said detectors means is one or more selected from the group comprising microswitches, IR-detectors, capacitive sensors, membrane switches.
4. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the or each detector means defines a sensing region on said casing.
5. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the or each detector comprises a proximity detector.
- 20 6. A defibrillator device according to Claims 1 to 4, wherein said detector comprises a contact detector.
7. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein said control system is operable on sustained detectors of an operator to

change the operational states of said defibrillator device from said second state to a different state.

8. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein said first state is an Off state.

5 9. A defibrillator device according to any of Claims 1 to 7, wherein said first state is a quiescent or sleep state.

10. A defibrillator device according to Claim 9, wherein said control system is operational periodically to initiate a self-check routine during said sleep state.

10 11. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein said second state is an On state.

12. A defibrillator device according to any of Claims 1 to 10, wherein said second state is a self-test state in which said control system initiates a self-test routine.

15 13. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein following detection of an operator and changing of the operational status of the defibrillator to said second state, the control system is operable to change the operational status of the defibrillator device to a different state on sustained detection of said operator beyond a preset period.

20 14. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein, following detection of an operator, the control system is operable to change the operational status of the device to a different state if no further detection is detected within a preset period.

15. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the defibrillator device includes means for issuing instructions to an operator following detection by said detector means.

16. A defibrillator device according to Claim 15, wherein said means for issuing instructions comprises at least one of a loudspeaker or a display on the defibrillator device.

17. A defibrillator device according to Claim 16, wherein the control system is operable to issue an instruction to the operator to connect a further item of equipment, on detecting absence of an operator following the change from said first operational state to a second operational state.

18. A defibrillator device according to Claims 16 or Claim 17, wherein the control system is operable to issue an instruction for the operator to touch or trip a further sensor on detecting absence of the operator following said change from said first operational state to said second operational state.

19. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, which includes one or more attitude sensors for detecting the attitude of the casing and for supplying the corresponding attitude signals to said control system.

20. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein after application of a defibrillation voltage in use to a patient, detection by said detector means of the presence or absence of operator causes the device to provide and/or store post-rescue data.

21. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the defibrillator device includes means for storing data relating to the

by said detector means of the presence or absence of operator causes the device to provide and/or store post-rescue data.

21. A defibrillator device according to any of the preceding Claims,
wherein the defibrillator device includes means for storing data relating to the
operation of the device following the application of a defibrillation voltage to a
patient, and said control system is responsive to a signal from said detector
means to apply a compression algorithm to said stored data.